

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

TAMMY M. WEAVER ,)	CASE NO. 1:12-cv-1232
)	
Plaintiff,)	JUDGE BOYKO
)	
v.)	MAGISTRATE JUDGE VECCHIARELLI
)	
MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,)	
Commissioner of Social Security,)	
)	
Defendant.)	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This case is before the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge pursuant to an automatic referral under [Local Rule 72.2\(b\)](#). Plaintiff is represented by counsel and has not been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.¹ As discussed below, Plaintiff has failed to comply with the Court's Order, has failed to perfect timely service on all of the necessary parties in this case, and has not shown good cause for her failure to perfect service. Accordingly, the Magistrate Judge recommends that this case be dismissed without prejudice.

¹ When a plaintiff is not granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, the plaintiff is responsible for effecting service of the complaint and a summons upon the necessary parties. See [Fed. R. Civ. P. 4\(c\)\(1\)](#) and [\(c\)\(3\)](#).

I. Background

On May 21, 2012, Plaintiff filed her Complaint against Defendant. (Doc. 2.) Under Rule 4(m) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff was required to serve Defendant within 120 days after the filing of her Complaint – on or before September 18, 2012. The Court’s review of the docket on September 14, 2012 revealed that Plaintiff had not yet served her complaint and summons on any of the necessary parties in this case. Accordingly, on that date, the Court reminded Plaintiff that she was required to file proof that she served all the necessary parties in this case by September 18, 2012, and ordered Plaintiff, if she failed to serve all of the necessary parties, to show, on or before September 21, 2012, good cause why service had not been so perfected. (Doc. 7.) The Court cautioned Plaintiff that a failure to comply with the Court’s Order could result in a recommendation that the case be dismissed for failure to perfect service.²

II. Discussion

Plaintiff has sued the Commissioner of Social Security. To serve a United States agency or corporation, or a United States officer or employee sued only in an official capacity, a party must serve the United States and also send a copy of the summons

² “If a defendant is not served within 120 days after the complaint is filed, the court—on motion or on its own after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be made within a specified time”; however, “if the plaintiff shows good cause for the failure, the court must extend the time for service for an appropriate period.” [Fed. R. Civ. P. 4\(m\)](#). The court may also dismiss a case *sue sponte* if the plaintiff fails to prosecute, comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or comply with a court order. [Fed. R. Civ. P. 41\(b\)](#); [Consolidation Coal Co. v. Gooding](#), 703 F.2d 230, 232 (6th Cir. 1983) (citing [Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.](#), 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962)).

and of the complaint by registered or certified mail to the agency, corporation, officer, or employee. [Fed. R. Civ. P. 4\(i\)\(2\)](#). To serve the United States, a party must:

(A)(i) deliver a copy of the summons and of the complaint to the United States attorney for the district where the action is brought—or to an assistant United States attorney or clerical employee whom the United States attorney designates in a writing filed with the court clerk—or

(ii) send a copy of each by registered or certified mail to the civil-process clerk at the United State's attorney's office;

(B) send a copy of each by registered or certified mail to the Attorney General of the United States at Washington, D.C.; and

(C) if the action challenges an order of a non-party agency or officer of the United States, send a copy of each by registered or certified mail to the agency or officer.

[Fed. R. Civ. P. 4\(j\)](#). Accordingly, Plaintiff must serve (1) the United States Attorney for the district in which the action is brought; (2) the Attorney General of the United States; and (3) the Commissioner of Social Security.

Plaintiff did not file proof that she served the necessary parties on or before September 18, 2012. Rather, on September 21, 2012 – three days beyond the expiration of the 120-day period – Plaintiff's counsel brought to this Court's Clerk's Office summonses and complaints addressed to the Commissioner of Social Security and the Attorney General of the United States, requesting that the Clerk serve these parties by certified mail. See 09/21/2012 Docket Entry. The Clerk's Office informs this Court that Plaintiff's counsel indicated that she intended to serve the United States Attorney for the Northern District by hand. To date, Plaintiff has failed to show cause why she did not comply with Rule 4(m) or this Court's order.

Plaintiff's counsel has an obligation to know the rules and requirements for

perfecting service of process in the cases for which he undertakes representation. Plaintiff's counsel has exhibited a complete failure to meet this obligation by failing to serve any of the necessary parties in this case within the required time. Indeed, Plaintiff's counsel failed to give this case due attention and never inquired as to why the Commissioner had not filed his answer and transcript of administrative proceedings.

In short, Plaintiff has failed to comply with the Court's Order, has failed to serve all of the necessary parties in this case within the required time limit, and has not shown good cause for failing to serve all of the necessary parties within the required time in this case. Accordingly, the Magistrate Judge recommends that this case be dismissed without prejudice for the failure to perfect timely service of process on all of the necessary parties in this case and for the failure to prosecute this case.

s/ Nancy A. Vecchiarelli
U.S. Magistrate Judge

Date: September 25, 2012

OBJECTIONS

Any objections to this Report and Recommendation must be filed with the Clerk of Court within fourteen (14) days after the party objecting has been served with a copy of this Report and Recommendation. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. See United States v. Walters, 638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981); Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140 (1985), reh'g denied, 474 U.S. 1111 (1986).